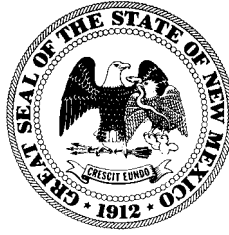


State of New Mexico



Office of the Attorney General
PATRICIA A. MADRID

PRESS RELEASE

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Attorney General Patricia Madrid's Office Awarded by State for Excellence in Accounting

(Santa Fe, NM)— Attorney General Patricia Madrid's Finance Office received an Excellence in Accounting Award today from New Mexico's Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) and the State's Comptroller's Office. The honor is awarded to state agencies that have a proven track record in responsibility for accounting functions.

Attorney General Patricia Madrid said, "My office is truly honored to receive this award. It shows the integrity and the dedication of my finance staff to make sure all state guidelines are followed and that taxpayer's money is not wasted or misused and every cent is accounted for."

The criteria for the DFA award is based on clean audits of the agency's finances, a record of processing invoices within a 45 day period, strict following of procurement guidelines and accurate, responsible accounting practices. In the last five years, the Attorney General Office's Finance division has not incurred any major findings on annual audited financial statements. The agency also successfully and accurately met every function of payroll, Human Relations and financial bookkeeping.

Out of 114 state agencies, the Attorney General's Office was one of six agencies that received the award and the only major state agency that manages a budget of more than \$10 million a year.

The Attorney General's Office Finance staff consists of 16 people who are overseen by the agency's Administrative Services Director, Elizabeth Kupfer, who was appointed by Attorney General Madrid.

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